Chess Room Newsletter
Issue #1042 | October 14, 2023 | Gens Una Sumus!

It’s National Chess Day!

Round One of the Fall TNM saw Rayna Yan pitted against Fernando Toledo Guerrero.

Contents

Recent Tournaments at Mechanics’ Institute – IM Elliott Winslow: Annotated Games from the TNM
The Chess Room, Past and Present – The Chess Scuttlebutt – Recent Games from Around the World
Tactics ala Silman – Outdoor Chess Returns to San Francisco!
Richard Hack: Tales From the Chess Café – A New Puzzle in the Library
Seeking Scholastic Chess Coaches – Tony’s Teasers – Upcoming Events – Solutions – Contact Us
Recent Tournaments at Mechanics’ Institute

On September 9, Mechanics’ Institute hosted our monthly double-header of Scholastic Swiss in the morning, Quads in the afternoon.

The Quads had a great turnout of 62 players competing in 15 sections, with Baansuren Erdene (2282) taking clear 1st in the top quad with 2.5 points.

Complete results for the September Quads can be found here.

The September Scholastic Swiss saw 21 players competing in 2 sections.

Enzo Steiger (995) scored a perfect 4-0 to take clear 1st in the In the 700+ section. Tied for 2nd and 3rd were Keshav Raman (881) and Miles Krepelka (704) with 3 points apiece. In 4th place was Zane Chu (746) with 2.5 points, and rounding out the prize-winners was Araddhya Tibrewall (1038) with 2 points.

Blaise Haudenschild (366) scored 3.5 - .5 and took clear 1st in the u700 section. Maxim Denis (534) and Keanu Chow (369) tied for 2nd and 3rd places with 3 points each. Josh Kyauk (451) scored 2.5 points and took clear 4th, while Jimmy Harvey (377) took 5th place with 2 points.

Complete results for the September Scholastic Swiss can be found here.

Both the September Quads and the September Scholastic Swiss were directed by Local TD Arthur Liou.

Despite two other events held simultaneously in the Bay Area on the weekend of September 16-17, the 51st Carroll Capps Memorial had a strong showing of 45 participants competing in two sections.

Sasha Kagle (1979) and Kian Jamali (1649) tied for 1st place in the 1600+ section with 3.5 - .5 scores. Splitting 3rd place, best u2200, and best u1800, with all scoring 3 points, were Francoise Buchs (2100), Zee Chin (1765), Prescott Yu (1658), and Reyansh Gupta (1645). Scoring 2.5 points apiece in a 5-way tie for best u2000 were Rayna Yan (1519), Anshul Govindu (1902), Itai Reingold-Nutman (1868), Stewart Katz (1824), and Matthew Castillon (1816). There was a 2-way split for best u1600 between Sriaditya Pandyala (1421) and Hoa Long Tam (1443). Both scored 2 points.

Hayes Alexander Marvin (1523) won the u1600 section outright with 3.5 points. Tying for 2nd and 3rd with 3 points each were Pratyush Hule (1427) and Chain Singh (1394). Tied for best u1400 were Rakshita Dhanasekar (1323) and Sri Ansh Dumpala (1345) with 2.5 points apiece, and the best u1200 prize went to Aashvi Sri Rangamreddy (1072), also with 2.5 points.

Complete results for the 51st Carroll Capps Memorial can be found here.

The 51st Carroll Capps Memorial was directed by National Arbiter Scott Mason.

Here is a game from the event:

[ 13.c5? doesn’t work yet: Bxe2 14.cxd6 Bxd1 15.dxe7 Bxc2 16.exd8Q+ Rxd8 black is a pawn ahead. ]

13...e5?
[ 13...c5 ]
[ 13...dxc4 ]

Qxe3! An ingenious try. 22.Nf1 Qf3+ 23.Kg1 hxg3 24.Nxg3?
[ 24.fxg3 ± ]
24...f5
[ 24...e3! and white is in trouble. If 25.Qxh7+ Kf8+- ]
[ 31.Kf3+- ]
38.Kf3 Ne3 39.Rg1+?!
[ 39.Nf6+!+- ]
39...Kf7 40.Nhx4 Nf5 41.Ng3 Nxg3 42.Rxg3 Nxf4 43.Kxf4

(Diagram)
The smoke has cleared and the position is equal. With white's a-pawn also queening on the 'wrong color' black should hold comfortably. What follows is a long game of 'cat and mouse'.

43...Ke6+ 44.Ke3 Rf7 45.Rg8 c5
46.Rh8 d4+ 47.Ke2 Rg7 48.Kf2 Kd5
52.Rc8 Rf7 53.Rd8+ Kc6 54.Ke4
Re7+ 55.Kd3 Re3+ 56.Kd2 Rg3
57.Rh8 Rg2+ 58.Kc1 Rg7 59.Ba3
Rc7 60.Kd2 Kd5 61.Rd8+ Ke4
62.Re8+ Kd5 63.Rg8 b4 64.Bc1 Rf7
65.Rg5+ Kc6 66.Ke2 a5 67.Rh5 a4
68.Rh6+ Kb5 69.Bg5 axb3 70.axb3
Rg7 71.Bd8 Rb7 72.Kd3 Rb8 73.Be7
Rg8 74.Bd6 Re8 75.Bc7 Re3+
76.Kc2 Rc3+ 77.Kb2 c4 78.bxc4+
Kxc4 79.Rxh7 Rb3+ 80.Kc2 d3+
81.Kd2 Rb2+ 82.Kc1 Rc2+ 83.Kd1
Kb3 84.Be5 Rg2 85.Rd7 Ka2 86.Rb7
Rg4 87.Kd2 Kb3 88.Kxd3 Rh4
89.Bd6 Rg4 90.Ke3 Rh4 91.Rc7 Rc4
92.Rg7 Rh4 93.Rg3 Rc4 94.Be5 Rc8
95.Kd2+ Ka4 96.Rg5 Kb3 97.Rg4
Rc4 98.Rg1 Ka4 99.Kd3 Rh4
100.Bd4 Kb5 101.Rg3 Kc6 102.Kc4
Re4 103.Rg6+ Kd7 104.Kd5 Re2
105.Rg7+ Re7 106.Rg6 Rh7 107.Rb6
Rh5+ 108.Be5 Rh1 109.Rb7+

Ke8??

[ 109...Kc8= ]
[ 109...Kd8= ]

110.Ke6 Rh6+ 111.Bf6 A great fight!
1-0
On Saturday September 23 the Mechanics’ Institute hosted a **Full Day Quad** (G60+5) with 45 players competing.

The top quad was won by **Abhishek Handigol** (2177) with 2.5 points.

Complete results for the September Full Day Quads can be found [here](#).

The September Full Day Quads were directed by National Arbiter **Scott Mason**.

---

The **22nd J.J.Dolan Memorial** was held on Saturday, September 30, with 63 players competing in four sections.

**Kian Jamali** (1833) scored a perfect 4-0 to take clear 1st in the 2000+ section. Tied for 2nd and 3rd places with 2.5 points each were **Michael Xiao** (1818), **Sivavisnu Srinivasan** (1809), and **Advik Garg** (1809).

**Jeremy Cawthon** (1964) also scored a perfect 4-0 to take 1st in the 1600-1999 section. In a 4-way tie for 2nd and 3rd with 3 points apiece were **Zee Chin** (1765), **Marina Xiao** (1717), **Liri "Gogo" Dancig-Perlman** (1683), and **Pavel Kolezsnikov** (1625).

**Samuel Agdamag** (1462) went 4-0 as well, taking the 1200-1599 by a full point over **Tingxuan Liu** (1232) and **Samuel Lin** (1044).

And **Serhii Derevianko** (unr.) continued the trend in the u1200 section, scoring four points and finishing a point ahead of both **Arav Munjal** (980) and **Anthony Khludov** (896).

Complete results for the 22nd J.J. Dolan Memorial can be found [here](#).

The 22nd J.J. Dolan Memorial was directed by Local TD **Arthur Liou**, assisted by Local TD **Michael Hsu** and **Anthony Simich**.

---

On October 5 we hosted a **Thursday Night Rapid tournament** with 24 participants in two sections.

GM **Jacek Stopa** (2427) took clear 1st in the 1600+ section with 3.5 points from 4 games, drawing his final game with IM **Mark Heimann** (2520). Heimann tied with **Beilin Li** (2187) and **George Sanguinetti** (1900) for 2nd and 3rd places, each scoring 3 points.

**Hayes Marvin** (1597) scored a perfect 4-0 to take 1st place in the u1600 section. Sharing 2nd and 3rd a full point behind were **John Chan** (1502), **Felix Macnee** (1392), and **Michael Bracamontes** (1192).

Complete results for the Thursday Night Rapid can be found [here](#).

The Thursday Night Rapid was directed by National Arbiter **Scott Mason**.
Hayes Marvin (right), the winner of the u1600 section in the Thursday Night rapid, playing Harrison Unruh (left) in the 5th round of the Fall TNM.

The 2023 Fall Tuesday Night Marathon kicked off on September 5 and runs until October 17 with 85 players competing in four sections.

Current standings for the 2023 Fall TNM can be found here.

The 2023 Fall TNM is co-directed by National Arbiter Scott Mason and International Arbiter Judit Sztaray.

IM Elliott Winslow
A selection of annotated games from rounds two through six of the Fall TNM annotated by IM Elliott Winslow and the players. All the games from the current TNM can be found here, and games from previous TNMs are in the Tournament Archive.
Greetings, newsletterers! Let's start out with a provocative game by young but experienced Ruiyang Yan against Sasha Kagle. Ruiyang was already marked up for three half-point byes in her last three rounds. Meanwhile, she took those byes to play in the U.S. Women's Championship, where after seven rounds she has seven *more* half points! Let's hope she finds her mark and scores some wins in the last four rounds!


The unusual Lowenthal Variation of the Sicilian. I don't think it's refuted even now.


[On 7...Qe7 Shaw in *his* repertoire series has 8.Qxe7+ Ngxe7 9.c4! "playing for two results" (which he considers a big success).]

8.Qd1 The longstanding main line, and *quite* complicated.

[When P. Negi in his 1.e4 repertoire series has White play 8.Qxf6!? in a world of otherwise quite sharp continuations, one has to see there is some respect there.]

[Shaw on the other hand put in quite a bit of work on 8.Qc7!? with some wonderful lines. I might even have to learn that!]

8...Qg6 9.Nc3 d5!? The sharper line, although not by much.

[9...Nge7 is slightly more popular but not more successful. Again: a wild ride.


Bf5?? This loses to a flash attack.


A) 17...Kd6 18.c3!+ (18.Nxa6!? bxa6 19.g4 Bg6 20.f5 and again, results don't match computer evaluation.) 18...Nc6! 19.Nxa6!± Computer: small plus for White. Results: solid edge for White but not so easy;


13...Nxc2+ 14.Kd2

\[13.Rc1 Bg4 14.Qd3 Qxd3 15.Bxd3 Rd8 16.h3 is still up in the air: note Bh5 17.f4

A) 17...Kd6 18.c3!+ (18.Nxa6!? bxa6 19.g4 Bg6 20.f5 and again, results don't match computer evaluation.) 18...Nc6! 19.Nxa6!± Computer: small plus for White. Results: solid edge for White but not so easy;

B) 17...exf4\]
A nice shot by Bambou puts this game away. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e3 Nf6 4.Bxc4 e6 5.Nf3 c5 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Nc3 a6 8.a4 Be7 9.b3

9...cxd4 10.exd4 0-0 11.Bf4 (Diagram)
(EW): An exciting game, which slipped away from Oli after excellent position pressure looked to be succeeding. Kristian’s notes are insightful. 1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.a3 After the game, my opponent asked me what I thought of this move. I said it seems fine and transposes into a reversed Scotch position. He thought my next move was a little premature, but I feel comfortable playing d5 against non-threatening moves like a3, h3, and d3 as recommended by the Chessable course I took. 4...d5 5.Bb5 d4 6.Ne2 6.Nxe5 dxc3 (6...Qd6 7.Nc4 Qc5 8.b4 Qg5 9.Bxc6+ bxc6 I couldn’t see all the way to the end of this line, but I think Black is OK here too with the bishop pair and easier development.) 7.Nxc6 cxd2+ 8.Bxd2 bxc6 9.Bxc6+ Bd7 10.Bxa8 Qxa8 11.0-0 Bd6 I looked at this and thought Black has decent compensation for the material deficit. [6.Nb1 is apparently the move preferred by theory. Both sides can afford slower development because the center is closed.] 6...Bd6 7.d3 h6 I only play moves like this when I’m taking away the opposing minor piece’s best square. I didn’t see much of a future for it on d2, although now I see that it should be fine after c3. I realized White could put a knight on f5, but I recently saw a game where Black (Botvinnik) played Kf8-g7 after g6 to preserve control of h6 while castling by hand. With the center closed, I thought I would have time for this. 8.h3 0-0 9.c3 dxc3 10.bxc3 Bd7 This looks like a pretty mechanical move, but it seems like a good idea to use my bishop on c5 to restrain his d4 break. That’s hard to do when my knight is under attack, so I wanted to put my rook on e8 without dealing with a pin on the Nc6. 11.Ng3 Re8 12.0-0
suffered from the famous affliction "no pawn break, no plan". White is trying to play d4, and I don't see many constructive ideas for Black other than "try to stop d4 and trade some pieces".

12...a6
[ 12...Bc5  13.Bb2 ]

13.Ba4 b5 14.Bc2 My last two moves were an attempt to get some space on the board before his inevitable d4 break, but I'm not convinced that they helped that much. The engine now suggests ...a5 and ...b4, undermining the d4 square, which seems pretty logical. 14...Be6

15.Re1 Bc5 16.Bb2 Bb6
[ 16...Qe7  17.d4 Rad8 looks a little more tenable, but the d-file pin is a temporary fix, and Black is going to be seriously short on space soon. ]

17.d4 Bc4
[ 17...exd4 18.cxd4 Bc4 19.d5 Nb8 20.Nf5± ]

18.d5

The backward c-pawn gave me a flashback to the first time I read Simple Chess by Michael Stean. The first game in the book is Botvinnik - Szilagyi, Amsterdam 1966, where Botvinnik used a weakened square to take control of the position in a similar structure. I thought I could place a knight on c5 and exert pressure against e4 with ideas of Na4 if he ever moved his bishop from c2. 18.Na5 19.a4 Now White is trying to trade off his bishop on b2, and I decided to let him do it instead of worrying about the d6 break. This was a strategically very rich position, and I'm still not sure if that was the right decision. 19...Bc5
[ 19...Qd7  20.axb5 axb5 21.Nf5 c6 22.d6 Rad8 This is recommended by the computer, but I really don't like this position for Black with the strong passed pawn and the knight on f5. ]

20.Ba3 Bxa3 21.Rxa3 Nb7 Clearing the a-file and preparing to put a knight on d6, which is the logical blockading square given that he can't kick my knight with c4-c5. 22.Nd2 Nd6 23.Nxc4 Nxc4

24.Ra1 g6 25.Bb3
[ 25.f4 I had to calculate the consequences of this move on several occasions in the middlegame. It doesn't work here, but the need to check it frequently started to take a toll on my time. exf4  26.Nf1 Ne5 ]

25...Nd6 26.Qe2 Nd7 27.Bc2 Kg7

Comparing this position to the one on move 17 shows that Black has made...
some significant strategic progress. I eased my space issue, shut down his knight on g6, firmly blockaded the pawn on d5, and clamped down on the c4 square. Even so, White's pressure on b5 is annoying, and I found myself wishing my pawn were back on b7 so I could play a5, b6, Nc5. 28.Ra2

28...Rb8 29.Bd3 Nc5

I assessed this as roughly equal, since White's space advantage is counterbalanced by Black's strong knight on d6 and the bleak future of White's knight. 30.axb5 Nxd3 31.Qxd3 axb5

I knew I needed to trade off one set of major pieces, since his queen and rook were very passive. I knew I needed to trade off one set of major pieces, since his queen and rook were better than mine, but my king and knight were better than his. 34...Qb8 to guard b5 while I play Nc8 to expel his rook 35.Qe3 Nc8 36.Ra1

[There's nothing in 36.Ra5 Nd6 37.Qc5 Nb7 (37...Rc8)]]

36...Qb7 37.Qc5!

The perfect spot for the queen, attacking b5 and a7. 37...Re7 To guard against a future Ra7, which I would respond to with Qb8 after I play Nd6. 38.Rb1! And now I saw White's point - the pawn is pinned, and c4 will be very strong.

38...Nd6 39.c4 Re8

38...Nd6 39.c4 Re8

39...Nxc4 40.Qxe7]

40.cxb5 Rb8

My opponent and I discussed this position at length after the game. I considered it tough but not lost for Black. White said he was thinking of slowly improving his pieces in this position to
take advantage of my weak pawns on c7 and e5. We also looked at 41.b6...

41.f3?
[41.b6! (ew: + (2.66/25) SF16) Nc8 I wasn't scared of b6 during the game, but maybe I should have been, since Black doesn't have an easy game after getting the pawn back. 42.Rb4 Nxb6 (42...cxb6 43.Qc3 Qe7 44.f4 f6 45.Rc4±) 43.Qe7!]

41...Qb6= 42.Qxb6 Rxb6 43.Kf2
Now i thought the worst had passed, and my plan was to win back the pawn on b5, put my king on d6 or d7 depending on his knight's placement, and liquidate my last big weakness and his passed pawn at the same time with ...c6. 43...Rxb5

44.Rxb5
[44.Rc1 Rb2+ 45.Kf1 Rb7 46.Ne2 Kf6 47.Rc6 Ke7=]

44...Nxb5 I considered this slightly worse for Black, but I thought saving this position would be of mild to moderate difficulty. 45.Ke3 Kf8 46.Kd3 Nd6 Keeping the king out of c4 and forcing it to take the long way via b4. I offered a draw somewhere around here. 47.Ne2 Ke7 48.Kc3

[48.f4 Kf6 49.g3 g5 50.f5 An interesting computer line. Defending e4 is going to be a problem for White.]

48...Kd7 49.Kb4 c6 50.Kc5 I missed this move in my calculations, but fortunately it's still a draw. 50...cxd5
[50...Nb7+ 51.Kb6 Nd8 52.Nc3 cxd5 53.Nxd5=]

51.Kxd5 f6 52.Nc3 Nc8
[52...Ne8 53.Nb5 and I don't have Nc7+.]

53.Na4 Ne7+ 54.Kc4

(Diagram)

White offered a draw and Black accepted. Black was slightly ahead on the clock by the end, but this is a dead draw. ½-½

Bambou,Christophe 2093
Yan,Ruiyang 2357
2023 Fall TNM: 2000+ (3.1) 19.09.2023
[Winslow,Elliott]

A hard game to locate when it slipped away! Ruiyang's ..a5-..a4 in lieu of routine development showed a deep maneuver, ...Qa5 and ...Ba6 to trade off the lesser piece. Then she wasn't everse to trading queens while keeping up pressure on the queenside. Bambou chose a bad moment to come out with the queen bishop, missing some subtlety involving the a-pawn making it to a2, and a few moves later he resigned.


(Diagram)

30.Be3?! [30.Ra5 Bf6 31.Be3 Bxb2 32.Rd7 a3 33.g3= ]
30...Rxb2


31.Ra5 a3 32.Rd7 Bb4

(Diagram)
Sasha lost his way against Ruiyang last round but here he's on point against Winslow (me). An important system, a couple of arbitrary moves by his opponent, and a nice attacking success. But then -- he dropped out of the tournament! We'll have to ask what happened.

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Quite an annoying system! But fortunately for Najdorf/Dragon/Scheveningen/Classical Sicilian players things have been worked out for Black. Too bad I wasn't quite alerted.

4...Nc6 5.Qd2 g6


6.b3 Bh6 7.f4 f5!? 8.Bb2 Nf6

[Other moves have been tried. Stockfish gives a complex game via 9.0-0-0 fxe4 but Black has done very well (almost 7-3 in their favor!) (9...Rf8 ) [and 9.Bd3 0-0 (9...fxe4; 9...Qa5 10.exf5 Bxf5 11.Nge2 saw Nakamura beat Grischuk but Sarana winning game after game as Black -- by castling queenside as well! 0-0-0!? 12.0-0-0!? )]

(Diagram)
Providing Black an opportunity to "capture towards the center" which shouldn't be taken. 9...gxf5??

(N) Stockfish unequivocally makes this "+-".

[ 9...Bxf5 (14 games) and already Black has equalized if not gotten the better of it (!), mostly through ...e5, ...Qd7 and ...0-0-0! A lesson that should sink in. No more "rote" moves! So here's a bit of an opening article:


10...Qe4 15.Ke1 Rxe8 11.Nf3 Kh8

[ 11.Nh3! ]

11...e5? *Thirteenth* best?? 12.Bc4+ Kh8

[ 12...Kg7 13.g3 Ne4 is just lost, lost, lost. ]


[ 17...Qxd6 18.Rxd6 Re8 is just as hopeless. Down a pawn, those bishops looking like the Danish]
Gambit on a good day, my king cowering on h8. ]

18.Kb1 Re8

[ 20.h4! Qg7 21.Qxe7! Nxe7 22.Rd8+ Ng8 23.Bxe5 is a slaughter. ]

20...Kg7 21.Bxc6 bxc6 22.Bxe5+ Kf7 23.h4
[ 23.Qxc6 Bb7 24.Qc4+ ]

23...Qg6

24.Qc5! Be6 25.g4! Ree8 26.gxf5 Bxf5 27.Rdg1 Bxc2+ 28.Kb2 Qd3
Taking a moment here to make sure I can't get in trouble after 6. Qd2 with a White battery aimed at trading off my DSB, which would not be fun for me.

6.Nxc6?!  
   [(ew: 6.c4 and ]  
   [ 6.Nc3 are the two main systems, and really the only question White should be asking, pawn on c4 in front of the knight or not? ) ]

6...bxc6  
   Now I've traded my b-pawn for White's d-pawn 7.c3 Defending b2 but blocks Nc3 which is more natural and accomplishes the same task. I suppose the idea is to permanently blunt my bishop on g7? 7...Nf6 Developing and attacking e4. 8.Bd3 Again, not the ideal square for the bishop which would rather be on c4. I feel the opening is going well. 8...0-0 I considered the immediate ...d5 push here but wanted to protect the queen with a rook first in case of a tactic to open the d-file.  
   [ 8...d5 9.e5? Ne4?! 10.Bxe4 dxe4 11.Qxd8+ Kxd8± This was the line I was worried about, but I hadn't yet spotted that after d5 opens up my LSB, the e5 advance allows Ng4! ]

9.0-0 d5± Striking in the center. Let's go!  
10.e5? Too cute (though opponent clearly enjoys pushing to avoid pawn trades, and uses this approach to better effect later on).  
   [ 10.exd5 Nxd5 Threatening to trade off White's DSB and end his dreams of exploiting the weakened dark squares around my king 11.Bd4 e5 12.Bc5 Re8± I'd prefer to be Black here. ]  
   [(ew) Best is 10.Nd2 ]

10...Ng4!++

Winning a pawn. 11.Bd4  
   [ 11.e6 Bxe6± No desperado maneuver to salvage the pawn. ]

11...Nxe5 12.Re1  
   (Diagram)
I didn't like giving up my DSB aka "the pride of my position" but after 7 minutes of thinking I couldn't find a better defensive resource that I fully trusted, and we're going to end up exchanging rooks where his is already more active than mine. (ew: the two queen moves were a bit better but Black is just fine either way.)

12...Qd6 Hmm anything here? Certainly discourages Bxd5 which gives me the bishop pair and a battery against h2. 13.Bxe5 Not sure what else White can do here, though, with c5 coming next, and if Be3 Ng4! again with the threat of Qh2+ (13.Be3 Ng4 And White is in big trouble: 13.Be2 c5 14.Be3 Ba6 15.Bxa6 Qxa6 16.Bxc5?! Nd3!)

13...Bxe5+ This seems better than what I played. (ew: 12...Qc7 is also pretty good)


A) 14...e5! 15.Bc5 (15.Bxe5?? Re8+- by a lot) 15...d4 16.cxd4 exd4 and "then* 17...Re8;

B) 14...Qb8? 15.Qxe7??

13...Nxe1 I spent 13 minutes here evaluating 4 forcing candidates, in this order: 13...Kxg7 (didn't love putting the king on the weak a1-h8 diagonal); 13...Nxe1 (this seemed better, in terms of trading off a set of rooks where I'm up a pawn and White's is more active, so "I'll play this if I don't find anything better"); and finally 13...Nxb2/13...Nxf2 each threatening the White queen, but I didn't trust my calculation enough on either of these lines to commit to a plan. Let's see if I missed anything? (ew: Ya got lucky :-)

13...Bxe1

This is what I was trying to calculate: I'm up two pawns, but can I blunt White's attack on my king via the weakened dark squares? I *think* f6 succeeds, not sure where White's attack goes from here, and my knight has the c4 escape square. Of course, it's easier for me to see this by moving pieces around on a digital board, rather than visualizing in my head at the actual board while the
14. Bxf8 Qxf8?!

Again, I didn't want to put my king on f8 with h6 permanently weakened (and then h7 undefended). Although this does decrease the activity of my queen. (ew: but not here! Your queen should have a better purpose than defending e7.

[and 14...Nxg2!-+ (desperado!) starts exposing *White’s* king, not to mention winning another pawn.) Note that 15.Bxe7?! Qxe7 16.Kxg2 Qg5+ 17.Kh1 Bh3 is *really* bad (and still down a pawn, not that that will matter!).]

15. Qxe1 Bf5

Activating my bishop and connecting my remaining heavies. I chose this over Ba6 simply because I was more comfortable with a pawn defending my bishop. Plus I can trade on b1 if White lets me. 16. Nd2 White does not let me trade on b1. 16... Rb8

For the next few moves I considered e6 to solidify my pawn chain, but I was worried about closing off my bishop’s avenues of retreat in case of something like h3-g4. I guess I can always route the bishop to safety via d3, so perhaps a missed resource given that I eventually allow e7 to fall?

[16... e6 17.h3 Rb8 18.b3 Rb7 19.g4 Bd3 Solid but not sure how Black makes progress from here 
[(ew: Stockfish notes 16...c5! getting your asset going right away.)]

17. b3

(Diagram)
This move also defends against d5
20...c4? Failing to consider that bxc4 isn't forced (ew: Yes, there goes any vestige of advantage.)

21.b4=
Now if White's queen wants to take the e7 and a7 pawns, Black will simply respond in kind by taking c3 and b4. Oh wait no! That doesn't work if Qxa7 first, because Qxe7 defends b4. 21...Rc6??
Lifting the rook and hoping to simplify with Re6, or if White plays the anticipated reply Ne4, attack/defend along the a-file with Ra6. Of course, I missed that both Qxa7 and Qxe7 give back my pawn advantage.

[ 21...a6 22.Qb6 Qxc3 23.Qxa6 Rb8† ]

22.Qxe7+- I can't counter with Qxc3 now that Qe8+ forks the rook on c6.
22...Re6 Wondering if Ra6 (defending a7 and attacking both c3 and a2) would have been better here, rather than trading down to play an even endgame which is not yet a strength of mine. I think the pain of "losing" the pawn on e7 to a missed tactic stopped me from looking for counterplay resources.

[ 22...Ra6 23.Qe8+ Qf8 24.Qe2 This looks like White's only way to save a pawn. ]

Protecting the pawn on a7 and encouraging a queen trade.

24.Qxg7+??=
[ ew: 24.Qd8+ keeping the queens on is just winning. Qf8 ( 24...Kf7??
25.Ng5# ) 25.Qc7 Qg7 26.Qb8+
A) 26...Kf7 27.Ng5+ Ke7
( 27...Kf6 28.f4 uh-oh ) 28.Qxa7+;
B) 26...Qf8 27.Qxa7+- ]

24...Kxg7 And now we're into a knight-vs-bishop endgame, which I have no actual knowledge of how to play. (ew: When you have the engine running and you see half a dozen candidates all "0.00"...) 25.Kf1 Kf6 Defending against Ng5! and I'm already nervous about all the potential knight forks in this endgame.

26.Ke1 Be4

(Diagram)
So I decide to force the pieces off the board. **27.a4?** (ew: White loses his way!)

- [27.Nh4?? g5! ]
- [27.Nd4! Bxg2 28.Nb5 a6 29.Nc7 e5 30.Nxa6 The pawns will stand off, with no breakthrough for either side.]

**27...Bxf3!+** ew: Andrew didn’t realize just how good this is. It doesn't take much to tip a pawn ending one way or another, and those broken pawns do it. Note that the outside majority, usually a deciding factor, here can't get going; Black's king is too close. **28.gxf3**

This structure looks pretty playable to me -- three pawn islands apiece, Black has superior king placement and doubled pawns to target on the f-file, while White has the 2-on-1 down the a/b-files. Let's go. **28...Ke7?** Counting the number of moves for White to make a passed pawn on b6 tells me I need to deal with that situation first. (ew: In fact you're already in range, and you let White off the hook!)

- [28...e5++ 29.h4 Ke6 30.Kd2 Ke7!! 31.Ke3 h5 It's White who has to be vigilant, lest a Black pawn break through via ...d4 and/or ...g5. ]

**29.Ke2?**

- [ew: 29.f4! changes the rhythm entirely. Now Black can't set up those threats of running pawns. It's all "0.00" again.]

**29...Kd7?**=  

- [29...g5 ]
- [29...e5 ]

**30.Ke3**

**e5??** Blocking out the White king. (ew: Things change in a heartbeat in pawn endings! Now this is a blunder!)
Black can hold, even with 30...Kc6 31.Kd4 a6 32.Ke5 Kc7 since taking the e-pawn allows ...d4 winning. 33.Kxe6?? d4+ ]

31.f4!? This looked scary at the board -- if I take on f4, White's king is going to beat me to the kingside while I'm stuck defending his queen's flank majority. But in hindsight I think this might be a mistake. (ew: "!" No, it's the only, winning, move.) 31...Ke6?? The losing move, giving up my central pawns which were my actual path to victory. In fact, after exf4 it might be Black who's playing for a win?! (ew: Everything loses already, sorry!)

[31...exf4+ Now if White doesn't recapture, I've got two pawn majorities, one on the kingside and one in the center, and my king can defend the central majority while remaining nearby to protect the queen's flank. And if he does recapture, I'm pushing the central pawns and even if he's in time to stop them, I suspect I'm cleaning up his majority in the meantime. 32.Kxf4 d4 33.Ke4 (ew: "??") (33.cxd4 (ew: !) c3 34.Ke3 c2 35.Kd2 c1Q+ 36.Kxc1 Kd6 37.Kc2 Kd5 38.Kc3+- Ok looks like White still has a win with accurate play. (ew: So this should be the main line! You can't just hope your opponent won't play it!) )33...dxc4 34.Ke3 Kd6 35.Ke2 Kd5 36.Kd1 c2+ 37.Kxc2 Kd4 38.Kb2 c3+ 39.Kb3 c2 40.Kxc2 Kc4 41.b5 Kb4+ ]

32.fxe5 Kxe5 33.b5
[ew: 33.f4+! forces entry to d4, etc. ]

33...Kd6 34.Kd4 Kc7 35.Kxd5
(ew: I've lost interest now, and this is a good time for Black to, too. 35...Kb6 36.Kxc4 Ka5 37.Kb3 a6 38.bxa6 Kxa6 And now the gap-toothed passers with king support are enough to bring this home. 39.Kb4 h6 40.c4 g5 41.c5

h5 42.a5 Opponent reached to play c6 here which would have been a horrible blunder, but stopped just before touching the piece.
[ 42.c6 Kb6 43.a5+ Kxc6= ]

42...g4 43.c6 h4 44.Kc5 h3 45.Kd6 Ka7 46.Kd7 Kb8 47.c7+ Ka7 I got excited by a stalemate trap with c8=Q, forgetting that my pawn on g4 was frozen but not fixed. Opponent was too sharp to miss that. 48.c8Q g3 49.Kc6 gx2 50.Qb7# 1-0 White wins by checkmate.

1-0

□ Yan,Ruiyang 2357
■ Dasika,Archit 2223

The meeting of the two masters (by rating) was interesting on many levels. This could end up being the key game for the final standings. 1.e4 c6 Archit is fond of systems where ...c6 and ...d5 are played, with ...dxe4 or ...dx) leading to modest but solid positions (think Slav/Meran and Caro Kann). 2.d4 d5 3.e5 So the Advance Variation makes sense against him, to perhaps place him in uncomfortable surroundings. (I should consider that!) 3...c5 It seems that, in the Bay Area, this is the popular way to hit White's center. It does require some unusual responses for both sides. The players now seem to be more knowledgable than I realized at first.

[Could the superstars finally be giving 3.Bf5 a rest? 3...c5 may yet become more common. But over time 3...Bf5 has been The Move four times as often. ]

4.Nf3 Not the main move until recently,
when some of the very top players (Firouzja, Ding) have relied on it. It doesn't seem so principled, to give Black ...Bg4, but there are other things going on, like development (!). And compare to 3...Bf5 when 4.Nf3 has been the main line, just getting the king out of the center before worrying about what to do with the pawns again.

[4.dxc5 has been the main thing for ages.]
[4.c3]

4...Nc6

[4...cxd4 and]
[4...Bg4 are the other natural moves. Nothing is set in stone.]
[4...e6 comes about a lot by transposition, when after 5.c3 it's hard to believe that the "free" knight move doesn't favor White.]

5.dxc5 Bg4 The height of fashion -- at least in Titled Tuesday three-minute games by 2750 players on chess.com.

6.c3 e6 7.Be3 Scores the best.


7...Bxf3 The most common -- but it's been getting beaten up. 70+%.


8.Qxf3 Nxe5 9.Bb5+ Nc6 10.c4

11.Nc3+ a6 12.Ba4 dxc4

13.0-0N


24. Qc3 Rab8 25. Qa5 Ra8 26. Rb1 h6 27. Rxb7 Qxb7 28. Rd1 Qd7 29. Rd2 e5 30. Qc7 Qc8 31. Qxc8+ Rxc8 32. d7 1-0

B11

Srinivasan, Sivakarthikeyan 1809
Bambou, Christophe 2093
2023 Fall TNM: 2000+ (4.2) 26.09.2023

[Winslow, Elliott]

Christophe came back (eventually -- and barely!) from his previous loss to see to it that another youngster didn't take him down, in a tricky rook ending.

1. e4 c6
5. Qe2 Nxe4 6. Qxe4 Be6 7. Ne5 Nd7
Bb4+ 14. Bd2 Bxd2+ 15. Qxd2 0-0
16. 0-0 Rfd8 17. Rfe1 Qb5 18. a4 Qc5
19. Re2 a5 20. Ra3 Qb4 21. Rb3 Qxa4
22. Rxb7 Rab8 23. Rxb8 Rxb8 24. b3
Qa2 25. h3 h6 26. Kh2 draw offered
26... Rb8 27. f4
[ 27. b4! a4!? 28. c4=!]
27... Rc5 28. Qd1 Qa3 29. g4 a4
30. bxa4 Qxa4 31. Rf2 Qc6 32. Qe2
Ra5 33. Qe4 Qc3 34. f5 Qc7+ 35. Qf4
e5 36. Qg3 Rc5 37. Qg2 e4+ 38. Qg3
e3 39. Qxc7 Rxc7 40. Re2 Rc5 41. Kg2
Re5 42. Kf3 f6 43. c4 Kf8 44. Ra2 Ke7
45. Ra7+ Kd6 46. Ke2 Re8 47. Ra5
Re5 48. Ra7 h5 49. Ra6+ Kc7 50. Ra7+
Kc6 51. Rxg7 hxg4 52. hxg4 Ra5
53. Re7 Ra2+ 54. Kf3 Kc5 55. Re6
Rf2+ 56. Kg3 Kb4 57. Rxh6 Kc3 58. g5
Rf1

(Diagram)

59. Kg4??
[ 59. c5=]
[ 59. g6= e2 60. Re6 Rxf5 61. Re2
Rg5+ 62. Kf2 Rxg6 63. c5 ]
59... Kxd3 60. d5 c6 61. Re6 e1 Q
62. Rxh1 Rxe1

Alas for White, the pawns are all just not far enough to distract Black from a queen and rook vs. king checkmate; White will queen, then Black will check the White king into the end. 63. c6
[ 63. Kf4 takes the longest, but it will be mate for sure after Kc4 64. f6 (64. g6
d3 65. g7 Rg1; 64. c6 d3 65. c7 Re8]
66.f6 d2 67.f7 Rc8 mate in eight. )
64...d3 65.f7 Rf1+ ]
63...Ke4! (Most accurate) 64.f6 d3
65.f7 d2
[ 65...Rf1 is just as fast and good ]
66.Kh5 (draw offered)(in fact it's mate in seven) 66...d1Q+ 67.Kg6 Qd6+
68.Kg7 Qe7
[ 68...Rf1 saves a move ]
69.Kg8 Qxg5+ 70.Kf8 Rc1 71.c7
Rxc7
0-1

White tries to make hay on the side where only his king is: a bad recipe?
Eventually Black should be able to work that in his favor. 13...Rc8N
[Here's the last high-level example, but (1) just Black (550 rating point
difference!) (2) just another blitz game (the database is infested with them!).]
13...b6 14.g4 Bg6 15.Kb1 h5
0-0 18.g4 Rb8 19.Bxb6 Qd7
20.cxb6 Qd7 (21...Bxd3+! ) 22.Ka1 Qb5+!
0-0 17.h4 Nc5 18.Nxc5 bxc5 19.Qc4
a5?
[19...Rb8= 20.Qxa6?! Rb6
Black secures plenty of counterplay picking on White's queen. 21.Qa7
(21.Qc4 Rb4 ) 21...e4!? 22.fxe4 Bf6
Black is fine. ]
20.f4?
[20.g4!± ]
20...Bf6 21.g4 exf4 22.Bxf4 hgx4
23.Rg3 Rb8 24.Bc1?!
24...Rb4!+ 25.Qa6 Be5 26.Ra3 Qf6
27.Rb3 Rfb8 28.Qxa5 Rxb3 29.axb3 Qf3 30.Qe1 Qxd5 31.h5 Ra8 32.h6 g6 33.h7+ Kh8 34.Bd2 Ra7 35.Bc3

37.Qf6+! Bxf6 38.Bxf6#
1-0

So with Ruiyang off to the Women's Championship in St. Louis after four wins, the dash is on to try to catch or even surpass her score. So we get: a wide-ranging game. First a seemingly innocuous opening, then Christophe stays true to form and sacrifices a piece for two pawns at first opportunity, probably not really soundly. Then, with some suspect defense by me it gets tricky. Finally Black looks to be winning in the clear when a total oversight lets White win back the exchange with a very drawn position. An ill-fated attempt to still make something happen backfires when it is White who is up the Exchange -- and Black is brought to the brink of checkmate. But drastically short on time, White doesn't see it! And somehow the defense holds. Black completely forgets
the 50-move rule permitting a ridiculously long game. 1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Bd3 has done pretty well for a minor line.

[ 3.Nc3 ]

3...e5! 4.Nf3
[ 4.c3 Nc6 has done fine, for me even -- I was winning against C.Xanthos in the last round of the National Senior Tournament of Champions, Orlando 2019, but failed to convert. Cost me a lot. (4...d5! is the "theoretical" move!)]

4...Nbd7 Most common if you include a lot of transpositions.
[Surprisingly 4...Bg4!? has the best score. This is *not* the Opera Game!]

5.c3 g6
[5...Be7 Here also, most common via different move orders.]
[5...d5!? could still fly.]

6.0-0 Bg7 7.Bg5 0-0 8.Nbd2 h6
[8...b6!?!]

9.Bh4 g5 10.Bg3 Nh5

White has done fairly well from this point. 11.Nxe5? Speculative bordering on unsound. But Christophe can't resist such an opportunity! :-)


11...Nxg3 12.Nxf7 Rxf7! 13.hxg3

So: White has two pawns for the knight, threats on the rook, and a big pawn center with more to come (f2-f4). Does anyone remember the Cochrane Gambit? 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nxf7 !?!

13...Nf6? Inviting complications -- when perhaps Black should be playing for quiet. I was concerned that his pawns might mobilize ("Lava Pawns" I've called it in the past) and wanted to set up ...d5.

[13...Rf8± would have saved me some grief.]

14.f4?
[14.Qb3 c6 15.Rae1±]

14...gxf4 15.gxf4

(Diagram)
Neither the other recapture nor tossing in 15.Qb3 changed much -- "Black is a piece up".  15...Bg4  16.Qb3  c6?!  
[ 16...d5!± would have been perfectly timed. ]  
17.e5  Nd5!

18.Bg6?!  As too often, my defensive technique was suspect.  
[ 18...Re7?!  19.Ne4  ( 19.Qxb7? Nxf4+- ) 19...dxe5  20.fxe5 Qd7± puts development in order.  21.Nc5 Qe7  22.Be4 ( 22.Qxb7 Qxb7  
23.Rxf8+ Bxf8 ]  
19.f5? In too much of a hurry!  
[ 19.Rae1± just building and seeing if Black can improve makes sense (and is SF). ]  
[ 19.c4± might even be too soon as well -- the center gets shaky with ... 
dxe5 coming. ]  
19...dxe5+
Not a hard move to find. I remember all the books when I was growing up (chessically that is), talking about "returning the gambit pawn at the right time." Well, this is returning the piece, getting the two pawns, but also there are some tactics at the end -- did you really think I was going to fall for that "give it all back" stuff? :-) 20.f6 Bxf6
The only move that works 21.Rxf6 Kg7
22.dxe5
[ 22.Rf2 Kxg6 23.c4 is the computer making the most of a bad situation, resulting in -- a bad situation. ]
22...Nxf6 23.exf6+ Kxf6 24.Qc2 Kg7

(Diagram)

Black is up a rook for a knight, with the slightly more exposed king. g-pawn vs. h-pawn can be significant! 25.Bh7!? Black has almost too many ways to thwart this 25...Kh8 I was amused at the pattern of this, following the bishop to the corner -- but

[ 25...Qd6 is a bit better ]
[ as is 25...Qb6+ 26.Kh1 Qe3 27.Qg6+ Kh8 ]
26.Be4 Qb6+ 27.Kh1 Re5 Threatening mate in ONE 28.Bg6

Rg8?? ??? I fell asleep at the switch. And I was the one with more time.
28...Qf2 29.Rf1 Re1 30.Qd3 was disuasive -- but simply Qh4+ 31.Kg1 Rd8 liquidates: 32.Rxe1 Qxe1+ 33.Qf1 Qxf1+ 34.Nxf1 Rd1 35.Kf2 Ra1 (35...Be6) 36.Bf7 (36.a3 Ra2) 36...Kg7 37.Bb3 Rb1 etc.

29.Nc4 Now it goes off further...
29...Re2!? A desperate attempt to make something work
[29...Qc7 (or Qb5 or Qc5) 30.Nxe5 Qxe5 31.Rf1 with "0.00" in every direction. (totally even) Be6 32.c4?! (32.b3; 32.Qe4; 32.Be4; 32.Bd3?! Bd5 33.Rf2 Rg5 would be Black's last dream of some advantage, but it's not happening.) 32...Bxc4 33.Qxc4 Rxg6 34.Rf8+ Kh7 isn't even any advantage worth talking about.]

30.Qc1!?
[I expected 30.Qxe2 Bxe2 31.Nxb6 Rxg6!? with some sort of bishop vs. knight advantage -- tiny to say the most.]
[Simplest was 30.Nxb6 Rxc2 31.Bxc2 axb6 when the tiny plus is White's. 32.Re1 Rd8 33.Re7 Rd2 34.Be4 Rxb2 35.Rxb7 Rxa2 36.Rxb6 Re2 37.Bxc6 Kg7 Black holds but it's all White's to try.]

(Diagram)

30.Rxg6!
At least I was clearheaded enough to see I had to give up my queen...

31.Nxb6

(axb6?)
[ I missed 31...Bf3!!
A) 32.Qf4 Bxg2+
A1) 33.Kh2?? Bd5+ 34.Kh3 Be6+ 35.Kh4 axb6+ followed by ...Kh7; White's king is caught up and seems to have no way to avoid ...Rg4+ and a won rook ending. (even 35...Kh7+ wins!) 36.Rd1 Kh7! ]
(other moves won as well);  
**A2)** 33.Kg1= Black can't make anything of this? Nope.;  
**B)** 32.gxf3 Re5! 33.Qf4 (33.Qd2; 33.Qc2; 33.Qg1 even) 33...Rh5+ 34.Qh2 Rxh2+ 35.Kxh2 axb6 and dead drawn. ]

32.Qf4?  
[32.Qd1! Kh7 (32...Rxb2?? 33.Qd8+ Kh7 34.Re1 and now it's my king in trouble) 33.Qd3 Re7 34.Rf1± all with many alternatives for White also clearly favoring him. ]

32...Be6!= 33.c4 sensible but another 0.00 like many others  
[33.Rd1 Bd5 34.Rxd5 cxd5 35.g3= ]

33...Kh7?!
[33...Rexg2! gives White something to worry about, but there is a draw after 34.Qf8+ (cleanest) Bg8 (34...Kh7=) 35.Rd1 (or other rook moves) R2g5 36.Rd2= ]

34.Qf3± Rexg2 35.Qxg2 Rxg2 36.Kxg2 Bxc4±  
(Diagram)

37.a3  
[I was concerned about 37.a4= and if ...b5; a5, but Stockfish isn't. ]

37...Kg6 38.Re1 Kf7  
[38...Kf5 39.Re7 c5 40.Kf2 Bd5 is closer to a draw ]

39.Kg3 Be6?!  
[39...Kf6 40.Re8 Kf5 41.Re7 Ba6 is unsavory but adequate. ]

40.Kf4 Ke7 41.Rh1  

Kd6?? He's the one running low on time, so of course I'm the one to blunder.  
[41...Kd7 42.Rxh6 Bb3 is, again, barely (maybe) holdable. ]
42. R\(\text{xh6}\) + - c5 43. Ke4 b5

44. Rg6?  
[ 44. b4!+- ]

44... b4?  
[ 44... Kd7! 45. b4 Bb3\(\pm\) 46. Rg3  
( 46. bxc5?? Bc2\(+\) 46...c4\(\pm\)  
and after ...b6 I have an actual fortress! ]

45. axb4!+- cxb4

Tablebase: 1-0  
46. Kd4 b5 47. Rh6 b3  
Perhaps if I'd remembered the 50 move rule (!!) this game could have been shorter! Starting the count here, move 97 would have been the draw. And I had
time (maybe fifteen minutes, he was the one who'd all but used up his time bank)...  
48. Rg6 Kd7 49. Kc5 Bc4 50. Rg7+ Kc8 51. Kc6 Kb8 52. Re7 Bd3 53. Kb6  
[ 53. Re8+ Ka7 54. Re3 Bc4 55. Re1 Kb8 56. Re8+ Ka7 57. Kc7!  
There's the win -- Re1-Ra1 mate, and ...Ka6 doesn't stop it. ]  
53... Kc8 54. Ra7 Bc4 55. Ra8+  
The last move on Bambou's scoresheet -- he was down well below five minutes.  
55... Kd7 56. Rh8 Bc2 57. Rh3 Bc4 58. Rh7+ Kc8 59. Kc5 Kb8 60. Kb4 Kc8

Okay, new scoresheet. We now play *another* sixty moves! (Well, he offered the draw on after 60 so I only got to play 59.) The win escaped him, what with this being delay so you never have more than a bit over five seconds.  
66... Bd3 67. Rd6 Bc4 68. Rd7?!  
[ 68. Rd1 ]  
68...Be6 69. Re7 Bc4 70. Kc6+?! Ka6 71. Re8 Ka7 72. Rc8 Bd3 73. Kc5 Kb7  
74. Rc6 Bc4 75. Rb6+ Ka7 76. Rf6 Kb7 77. Kb4 Kc7 78. Ka5 Kb7 79. Rh6 Kc7  
80. Ka6 Bd3 81. Ka7 Bc4 82. Rh5 Kc6
83.\textit{Rg5 Bd3 84.\textit{Ka6 Bc4 85.\textit{Ka5 Kb7}}
86.\textit{Rg6 Kc7 87.\textit{Rb6}} He was stuck on the idea of playing \textit{Rxb5}, which will never work if my king is two moves from \textit{b5}. \textit{87...Bd3 88.Rh6 Kb7 89.Rh3 Bc4 90.Rc3 Kc6 91.Kb4 Kb6 92.Rc1 Kc6 93.Rh1} \[93.\textit{Rxc4+ bxc4 94.Kxc4 Kb6 95.Kxb3 when there is a single drawing move, Kb5=} \]

113.\textit{Rxb5} \[The ever-helpful computer, perhaps modeled after speaking bots of TV and movies from the 60s, points out that 113.Rb8+ is also a draw... \]
113...\textit{Bxb5+ 114.Kxb5 Kb7 115.Kb4 Kb6 116.Kc3 Kc5 Drat. 117.Kxb3 Kb5 118.Kc3 Kc5 119.b3 Kb5 120.Kc2} $\frac{1}{2}$-$\frac{1}{2}$

\[\text{Diagram} \]

8.\textit{e3!} Rare but has done well. Especially compared to the "usual" but not-scoring-so-well:
[ 8.Bg5 ]
[ 8.a3 ]

(Diagram)


(Diagram)
Wong, Wilson

Gu, Chunhui

2023 Fall TNM: 1600-1999 (5.11) 3.10.23

[Wong, Wilson]

(W): Wilson is in the group of four in the lead for the 1600-1999 section. His prolific annotations are a regular addition to the games, and this one was no exception. Let's see him take down Gu the elder, a family of Najdorf aficionados from both sides (see Chunhui's win over Calvert in the previous round).

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6
9.Nd5

Ne4?

[26...Rf8 27.Rc5 Ba6 28.a5 Qb8
29.Qg4! (29.Rc6? Be2!+ 30.g4!? Bd3!+) 29...f5 30.Qg5 Qd6
31.Kg2++]

27.Rb5+ Qc6 28.Rc1 Nc3 29.Rxb4 g6 30.Qg4
[30.Qf3!]

30...f5 31.Qf3 Ba6 32.Kh2 Qd6

33.Nc5 Na2 34.Nxa6
[34.Rc1? Nxb4 35.Rxb4 Rc6 36.Qd1]

34...Rxc1 35.Rb8+ Kg7 36.Rb7+ Kh6
37.Nc5
[37.Kg2!]

37...e5 38.Rd7 e4 39.Qe2 Qb6
40.Qxa2 Qb4 41.Nb3!
[41.Nd3 exd3 42.g4 Qb8+ 43.Kg2 Rc7 44.Rxc7 Qxc7 45.Qa3++]

41...Rd1
[41...Rc3 42.Nd2 Ra3 43.Qc2 Rc3 44.Qd1 Rd3 45.g4]

42.Qe2! (Actually the only move, but winning) 42...Qxb3 43.g4!
Mate follows.

1-0
14.Kb1 I played this too quickly, not giving a4 much consideration. a4 seems to really slow down Black's attack and freezes Black's queenside pawns. 14.a4 This looked like a way to shut down Black's queenside and fix Black's pawns to dark squares. With no pawn breaks in the queenside, I'll have all the time in the world to attack Black's kingside. If Black tries to keep the position closed and leaves the king in the center, I can still open lines on the kingside and use my superior space advantage and better piece coordination to make progress.] 14...a4 15.Nd2 I preferred this over Nc1 since it takes less time to get my knight into the game. Nc1, Ne2, g4, Ng3 doesn't do anything and Black can just play ...g6, making the night journey a huge waste of time. Much quicker is just my move, then Ne4, Ng4, and Black push it away with pawns without creating new outposts. 15...a3 16.b4 White can capture Black's a3-pawn for free then play for a passed pawn on the queenside.

[ 16.b3! 16 Stockfish ]

16...Qc7
[ 16...Be7!? ]

[ 19.c4 I didn't give this much thought but didn't like it since c5 is not happening. ]

19...Qc4 20.c3 I wanted to get a4 in one go. I'm unsure if the rook endgame is enough, but I think the position is a lot harder to play and execute my plan with all these pieces on the board and if Black is given time to reorganize, it might be unclear whether I can take advantage of my queenside majority to make a strong enough passed pawn. 20...Be7 21.h4 Grabbing space, freezing Black's g6-pawn and preparing to open Black's kingside if Black castles kingside.

[ 21...Qxd3+ 22.Rxd3 Nf6 23.Bg5 Black's e7-bishop is overloaded. I don't mind getting rid of minor pieces since it'll make pushing my pawns easier but its also probably a draw if I force trades too quickly while Black's king is close to the action. 23.Kc2 Stockfish likes this, not wasting moves trying to force trades. Black is behind in development and most of White's pieces are already in position to support White's queenside plays. ]

23...Kd7 24.Kc2 Ne8 Black's rooks are disconnected. Black wasting lots of time makes it far more likely I'll succeed in my queenside pawn pushing plan.

25.Kb3 Bxg5
[ 25...f5 This pawn structure is very effective at squares control. ]

26.hxg5 A good recapture for me. My 4 d-to-g pawns are effectively halting Black's 5 d-to-h pawns. 26...Nc7 27.c4 I'm happy with ...Nxb5 cxb5 since I'll be able to create a protected passed pawn on the queenside which is enough to win the game. 27.Nxb5 28.cxb5 b6 29.a4 Intending to push a5. Black can try to blockade the queenside pawns but I can then also threaten to open the e- or h-files to overload Black. 29...Kc7 30.Rc3+ Kb7 31.Rc6 Intending to double rooks if Black just tries to defend their d6-pawn. 31...Rxc6 I wasn't sure which recapture was better, with the main goal of not allowing Black to create a fortress. 32.bxc6+ However Black plays, I will get passed b- and c-pawns.

32...Ka6 33.b5+ Ka7
[ 33...Ka5 Note this doesn't work because it will put Black in zugzwang. 34.c7 Rc8 35.Rc1 And Black will have to sacrifice lots of pawns and still end up losing. ]
On first board, with both players able to match Ruiyang's five and a half score by winning both this and the next game, it is no quiet story. Once again, in a relatively dry position Bambou whips up some craziness via a knight sacrifice, then a rook sacrifice! NOT sound! But -- Dasika loses his way! Bambou's pawn army is causing, if not a win, then at least a perpetual. But one wrong king move...


14...Ne8N I hesitate to call this a mistake, but letting White's knight establish on c5 can't be a happy choice.

[Standard in the Exchange Slav is 14...Nd7 and here is no exception. Watch one of the undisputed great Slav players make it happen (yes, it's yet another blitz game): 15.Bg3 Rc8 16.Nc5 Nxc5 17.dxc5 b6 18.cxb6 Qxb6 19.b3 Rfd8 20.Qe2 Bf6 21.h3 a5 22.Rfd1 Ne5 23.Bxe5 Bxe5 24.Qd3 g6 25.Be2 Qb4 26.g3 Kg7 27.Kg2 Rc5 28.Rxc5 Qxc5 29.Qb5 Qxb5 30.Bxb5 Rc8]


21...Nd2? [ 21...Ncd6! 22.Nxb7?? Ra7-+ ]

22.Rfd1± Nxf3+ 23.gxf3 b5 24.Qc6 [After all its time there, it's time to abandon c5 and let the rooks in: 24.Nd3!? ]


26...h4 27.g4

(Diagram)

Nwg4!? Well, no, it's actually a mistake bordering on a blunder. But it's signature Bambou! [ 27...Nh7 intending a more sedate ... f5 still has White winning after 28.a4! f5 29.Nc7! fxg4 30.f4 But it's still scary! ]

28.fxg4 f5 29.Qe2 fxg4 30.Nc7

Stockfish has White totally winning here, over +4. And Christophe played the 9th best move now. I looked over and remember they both had about the same time left, in the 25-30 minute range, so that wasn't in play... 30...Rxa2!?
31.Qxa2 Qf5 32.Qe2 The natural defense, but [32.Qc2 Qf3 33.Nxe6 h3]

```
32...Qe4
```

32...Qe4 loose: (or 34..Rf6=)

A) 35.f3? Qxe3+ 36.Kh1 (36.Qf2 h2+ 37.Kg2 gxf3=+) 36...g3!-

B) 35.Rc8+ Kh7

B1) 36.f4= h2+! 37.Kxh2 Rh5+ 38.Kg3 Rh3+ 39.Qxh3+ gxh3 and it's drawn after only four moves: 40.Rg1 (40.Kh4; 40.Ra1; 40.Rcc1);

B2) 36.f3 Rf3= (36...Qxe3=)

C) 35.f4

```
34.Rxf3 35.Rc8+
```

[35.Nc3 h2+ 36.Qxh2 Qxe3+! draws as well]

```
35...Kf7? 
```

```
best!?
```

35...Kf7??

[35...Kh7! not only doesn't lose the queen, it is a perpetual!! Christophe mentioned his last without quite noting what was going on; I didn't look at a board and see just what he had done until another email.]

36.Nd6+

1-0

33Nb5?? This ruins White's totally won position. Stockfish gives a dozen or so moves as winning: at least a couple of them must work. :-) 33...h3! = 34.f3□ It's either this [or 34.Qf1□ Rf5 with ...h2+ on the
1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Be3 a6
5.a4 Nd7
With a2-a4 in, Black could consider lines with ...Nc6. (ew) 6.Nf3
Ngf6 7.h3 0-0 8.Be2
8...c5 9.0-0
[ 9.d5!± ]
9...cxd4 10.Bxd4 b6

11.Be3N A fantastically stupid move. 11. e5 is the only realistic move.
[ 11.Re1 is fine as well (ew) ]
11...Bb7 12.Nd2 Rc8 13.Re1 Nc5
14.Bf3
[ 14.Bf1 ]
14...Nfd7 15.Ra3 Ne5
[ 15...b5!± ]
16.Be2 a5= 17.f4 Ned7 18.Bf3 Qc7
19Nb5 QB8

[ 21.fxe5 dxe5 22.Bf2 ]
21...Rfd8?
[ 21...Bc6!± ]
22.Nc4! Nf8?? 23.b3?? Yet another fantastically stupid move...smh.
[ 23.Nxb6+- nets a 2.x point advantage. ]
23...d5??
[ 23...Nxe4! 24.Bxe4 best Bxe4 25.Rxe4 d5 26.Bxe5! dxe4 27.Qxd8 Rxd8 28.Bxb8 Rxb8 29.f5!? Rd8!? Black clearly has the better of it, but whether it's enough to win is not so clear (ew). ]
[ 23...Bxe4! ]
24.exd5□ e4 25.Bxg7! exf3?
26.Qa1?? "There are not enough question marks for this move." ---Walter Shawn Browne Just simply 26. Be5 and "gin," as ecw says... This is the essence of time pressure.
[ Stockfish 9: 1) 26.Be5 3.42/34 Rxd5 27.Bxb8 Rxd1 28.Rxd1 Rxb8 29.gxf3 Black may get some pawns back, with play around White's king,
and that rook on a3... but it's a win for White (ew). Bxf3 30.Rd6 Be4 ] [These other moves Mike gives, 26.Qxf3 0.27/34 ] [and 26.Nxb6 0.08/33 , are insignicant compared to 26.Be5 (although they're a lot better than played!) (ew). ]

26...f2+??
[ 26...Qxf4! 27.Rf1 Bxd5+ after various tries (ew). ]

27.Kxf2 Qxf4+ 28.Kg1 Bxd5 29.Bh8 Nce6 ...and White lost on time. In a drawn position. Which nobody would find with an hour on the clock (ew).

[ 29...Nfe6! 30.Be5! Qg5 31.Re2! Nd7! ]

[ 29...Nce6?! 30.Ne3! Bxg2! 31.Nxg2 Qh6 Stockfish 16 makes this ... slight plus Black! ]

0-1

This game was quite exciting -- "Oli" sent in a few notes, but then I noticed (via a few missteps by both players) an incredible ending, featuring some ballet on the part of White's king... 1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.e5 Nfd7 4.d4 e6 5.Nce2 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.a3 Be7 [ 7...cxd4 8.cxd4 f6 9.exf6 Qxf6 10.f4 Bd6 11.Nf3 0-0 12.Be3 Nb6 13.b3 a5 14.Ne5 Qe7 15.a4 g5 16.g3 gxf4 17.Bxf4 Bb4+ 18.Kf2 Nd7 19.Kg2 Ndxe5 20.dxe5 Qg7 21.Qc1 Rf5 22.h4 Bd7 23.Ra2 Raf8 24.Kh2 Nxe5 25.Bxe5 Rf2+ 26.Bg2 Qxe5 27.Qg5+ Qxg5 28.hxg5 e5 29.Nc1 e4 30.Rd1 Be6 31.Kg1 Bc5 32.Kh1 b6 33.Re1 Rxa2 34.Nxa2 Rf2 35.Nc3 Rc2 36.Nb5 Bg4 37.Nc7 0-1 Ladron de Guevara Pinto, P (2429)-Adla,D (2393) ESP-chT CECLUB Div1 Sanxenxo 2022 (7.2) ]

8.g3 cxd4 9.cxd4 Qb6 10.Nf3


25...Bxb5 26.Qxb5+ Kf7 27.Rfd1 Qe7 28.Rbc1 Nh7 [ 28...Rh7= ]

29.Rc5=
29...b6 30.Rxc7?
[ 30.Rc6 ]
30...Qxc7† 31.Qd3 Rc8?
[ 31...Ng5† ]
32.f3
[ 32.Bxd5! exd5 33.Qxf5+ Kg7 34.Qxg4+ Kh8 35.Kg2= ]
32...gxh3† 33.Bxf3 Qc3 34.Kf2 Ng5
35.Kg2 Qxd3
[ 35...Nxf3 36.Kxf3 (36.Qxf3 Qc2+ and 37...Rc3+) 36...Qb2! 37.Rd2 Qc1 38.Rd1 Qg5+ ]
36.Rxd3 Rc2+ 37.Kg1?
[ 37.Kf1 Rc1+ 38.Kf2 b5† ]
37...Nxf3+?
[ 37...Rd2! 38.Rc3 Nxf3+ 39.Rxf3 Rxd4+ Lichess says -4.5 ]
38.Rxf3= Rd2 39.g4 Rxd4 40.gxf5 exf5 41.Rxf5+ Ke6 42.Rf6+ Kxe5
43.Rh6 Rh4 44.Kf2 Ke4 45.Rh8 d4 46.h6 d3?? The king needs shelter in front of the pawn!
[ 46...Kd3 ]
[ 46...Rh3 ]
[ 46...Rh2+ ]
[ 46...Rh1 ]
[ 46...Rf4+ 47.Kg3 Rf7 ]
[ 46...Rh5 are all 0.0 says Lichess. ]
47.h7+ Rh2+
[(EW "taking over"): 47...d2 48.Ke2! Rh2+ (48...Rh1 49.Kxd2) 49.Kd1 Kd3 50.Rd8+ Ke3 51.h8Q Rlxh8 52.Rxh8 ]
48.Kg3
48...d2
(Diagram)
49.Kxf2?
[ 49.Rd8? Rxh7 50.Rxd2= ]
[ 49.Re8+! Kf5 (Black's king is "shouldered" away from White's king) 50.Kxh2! d1Q 51.h8Q Qd2+ 52.Kg1 Qd1+ 53.Kf2 Qd2+ 54.Re2 Qf4+ 55.Kg2 No perpetual! White wins. ]
49...d1Q 50.Re8+
49...d1Q 50.Re8+
[ 49...Kf4? -- Black threatens mate in four! 51.Rf8+! Ke3! 52.h8Q Qd6+!= is a perpetual! ]
51.Rf8+? And this lets Black's king get into range of White's king again!
[ 51.h8Q! when again there is no perpetual. At first my (EW) computer said "44 moves to mate" and I was thinking "that's not much of a margin of error," but it quickly found a speedier forced mate in 23. Qc2+ 52.Kg1 Qd1+ 53.Kf2 Qf3+ (53...Qd2+ 54.Re2 ) 54.Ke1 White escapes. Qg3+ 55.Kd2 ]

51...Kg4 52.Rg8+?
[ 52.h8Q!+- the only win ]

52...Kf4?
[ But NOW the only draw is 52...Kf5!! 53.Rf8+ Kg5!! I think it's getting out of the queen's way to deliver the perpetual. ]

53.h8Q Qe2+ 54.Rg2 1-0
Mechanics’ Institute chess coaches **Thu Le** (far left) and **Leon Alston** (far right) had birthdays one day apart in September, and celebrated together with **Alyssa Stone, Sheryl Kim** (who brought the cake!) and **George Bannan**.

**Carroll Mathers Capps** (1913-1971) was a long-time Mechanics’ Institute member, a chess master, and a well-known science fiction author by the name of **C.C. MacApp**. Here is a list of all the winners of the Carroll Capps Memorial Tournaments, 1971-2023:
1971 - Julio Kaplan
1972 - Craig Barnes
1973 - James Tarjan
1974 - Walter Browne
1975 - David Strauss and Paul Cornelius
1976 - Jay Whitehead and Max Burkett
1977 - Jeremy Silman and Cicero Braga
1978 - Tournament Canceled
1979 - Nick de Firmian
1980 - John Grefe, Jay Whitehead, and Charles Powell
1981 - Peter Biyiasas and John Grefe
1982 - Jeremy Silman, Peter Biyiasas, Alan Pollard, and Vince McCambridge
1983 - Peter Biyiasas, Craig Mar, and Victor Baja
1984 - Charles Powell, Victor Baja, and Bill Orton
1985 - Nick de Firmian, Peter Biyiasa, Charles Powell, and Rudolfo Hernandez
1986 - Igor Ivanov and Jay Whitehead
1987 - Marc Leski, John Grefe, and Gustavo Darcy Lima
1988 - Guillermo Rey, Bill Orton, and Romulio Fuentes
1989 - Vladimir Strugatsky, Charles Powell, and Rudolfo Hernandez
1990 - Loal Davis
1991 - Walter Browne, Jay Whitehead, and Greg Kotlyar
1992 - Walter Browne and Renard Anderson
1993 - John Grefe, Emmanuel Perez, and Adrian Keatinge-Clay
1994 - Craig Mar, John Grefe, and Rostislav Tsodikov
1995 - Enrico Sevillano and Joe Weber
1996 - Igor Ivanov and Omar Cartagena
1997 - Alexander Baburin
1998 - Mladen Vucic, Mark Pinto, Omar Cartagena, Ron Cusi, and Jonathan Baker
1999 - Russell Wong, Paul Gallegos, David Blohm, Walter Shipman, Agnis Kaugars, Keith Vickers, and Larry Snyder
2000 - Kenneth Hills and Ryan Porter
2001 - Ricardo DeGuzman
2002 - Ricardo DeGuzman and Victor Ossipov
2003 - Ricardo DeGuzman and Batsaikhan Tserendorj
2004 - Nicolas Yap
2005 - Ricardo DeGuzman and Ron Cusi
2006 - Batchimeg Tuvshintugs
2007 - Ricardo DeGuzman
2008 - Ricardo DeGuzman
2009 - Ricardo DeGuzman and Andy Lee
2010 - Vladimir Mezentsev
2011 - Ricardo DeGuzman
2012 - Hayk Manvelyan and Michael Lin
2013 - Ricardo DeGuzman and Gabriel Bick
2014 - Paul Gallegos and Andrew Hong
2015 - Uyanga Byambaa
2016 - Jack Zhu
2017 - Elliott Winslow and Rochelle Wu
2018 - Mike Arne, Ethan Boldi, and Cailen Melville
2019 - Kyron Griffith
2020 - Tournament Canceled
2021 - Lucas Lesniewski
2022 - Kyron Griffith and Sricharan Pullela
2023 - Sasha Kagle and Kian Jamali

Polina Tymchenko (left) and Maksim Manakov (right) stare each other down at a photoshoot in the Chess Room on September 22nd.

Mechanics’ Institute chess coach Thu Le (left) caught a game on a recent visit to the St. Louis Chess Club.

A scene from the crowded Chess Room in the 1950s.
There was a terrific turnout of nearly 40 people at our monthly Chess Social on Friday, October 6. Join us next month!
The Chess Scuttlebutt

Links to some of the news that make up our world.

NBA Star Derrick Rose is busted playing chess on his phone during a Drake concert.

Local chess wizard IM Ladia Jirasek is profiled in the San Jose Mercury News.

Mechanics’ Institute member, chess enthusiast, and financial planner Taylor Zachary is interviewed here.

USCF President Randy Bauer melts down on Facebook over the USCF’s handling of sexual assault allegations, spurring an outcry and calls for his resignation.

Oakland has a new chess club.

Hans Niemann calls out Piers Morgan in a viral interview.


10-year old Punithamalar Rajashekar from Malaysia sets a Guinness World Record of 45.72 seconds for setting up the pieces on a chess board blindfolded.

The United States wins the World Senior Team Championship 50+.

Mechanics’ Institute brings outdoor chess back to San Francisco.

The City of Berkeley shuts down outdoor chess on Telegraph Avenue - spurring a human “Chess-In” protest at the next city council meeting.

The 2023 U.S. Senior Women's Chess Championship is being held November 3 -5 at the Berkeley Chess Chess School, and WIM Alexey Root is having a book-signing there.

Argentina hails their new Chess Queen, Girls Junior World Champion WGM Candela Belén Francisco Guecamburu.

GM Marc’ Andria Maurizzi of France wins the Open World Junior World Championship.

The St. Louis Chess Club releases a statement about the allegations of sexual harassment concerning GM Alejandro Ramirez, and promise to do better in the future.

The new City College of San Francisco Chess Club meets on Thursdays from 1:30-3:00 pm. Contact: ccsfchessclub@gmail.com

A new study shows that even parents and coaches short-change girls' potential in chess.

Coming up at Mechanics’ Institute on October 24 before the Fast Fall Blitz: author talk and book signing with IM Ladia Jirasek, author of How to Chess.

Mechanics’ Institute Chess Coach Zorba Hughes took the (k)night off for Comedy Day.

Recent Games

A selection of games from around the world that have caught our attention.
A nice thematic game by the winner of the Tata Steel Blitz.

White is ripped apart at Fischer Random.


0-1

The newly-minted American International Master walks a tightrope to bring home the point.

Kasparov gets destroyed by the U.S. superstar.

1-0


(Diagram)
White crashes through on the kingside.


(Diagram)

27.Re7!!

1-0


[31...f6! 32.a7 Kf7! 33.axb8Q Rxb8+]

32.Qxc3! Qxc3 33.Rxc3 f6 34.Rc7 fxg5 35.a7 Ra8 36.Rxd7 gxh4 37.Rxb4 Kg8 38.gxh4 1-0


23.Qxe6+!! Kf8 24.gxh7 1-0


(Diagram)

(Diagram)

31.Nf6+ Kh8 32.Ng4 Qg5 33.Qxf7 Bxc1 34.fxe6 c3 35.Nf5 Rd1 36.h4 Rxf1+ 0-1


(Diagram)
30.Bxh7+?
   [ 30.c4! Bxc4 31.Rxe5 Bxf1
        32.Bxh7+ Kf8 33.Nh4 Bd3 34.Rxe7 Kxe7 35.Bxd3± ]
30...Kxh7 31.Ng5+ Kg8 32.Rxe5 Bxf1
33.Qf5 g6 34.Qf4 dxe5 35.Qh4
Bxg2+ 36.Kh2 f6
0-1

Diagram

Stockfish
Lc0
CCC21 Rapid: Semifinals (10|3) (1)

Stockfish misplaces a rook on move 25... and ends up losing it 68 moves later.
8.Nd2 Nd7 9.a4 Bd6 10.Qg3 Qf6
11.Nc4 Bc7 12.h4 Qg6 13.Qh3 Nf8
14.h5 Qf6 15.Qf5 Qe7 16.Be3 f6
17.a5 Ne6 18.g3 0-0 19.Ke2 Nd4+
23.Rha1 Re8 24.Ra4a3 Qe7 25.Rb3?

(Diagram)

(Diagram)

1-0
Black comes out on top after a wild opening. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nge7 4.Nc3 Ng6 5.h4 Nd4 6.Bc4 h5 7.Ng5 d5?

34.Bc4! Qxc4 35.f7# 1-0

Black comes out on top after a wild opening. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nge7 4.Nc3 Ng6 5.h4 Nd4 6.Bc4 h5 7.Ng5 d5?

8.Bxd5 Bg4 9.Bxf7+ Kd7 10.f3 Nxh4


0-1

Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime 2727
Carlsen, Magnus 2839
AI Cup Div-1 2023 (5.2) 29.09.2023

23.Bxh7+!? Kxh7 24.Rh3+ Kg8
25.Qh5 f5?
[25...f6!+ repulses the attack.]
26.Qh7+ Kf7 27.Rh6 Qxc4 28.Rf6+ Ke8 29.Qxg7
1-0

White "hangs" both knights on the 6th rank in this great game by the winner of the Open World Junior Championship.

A great attacking game by the winner of the Girls World Junior Championship.

Nfd4?
[17...Nh4!]
18.Bxd4 cxd4 19.Rab1± Qc7 20.g5
g6 21.h4 Bb4 22.Nh2 0-0-0 23.Rb3
Bd2 24.Rfb1 Be3+ 25.Kf1 b6
Rg4 29.Re1 Rh8 30.Rxe3 dxe3
31.Ke2 Rh3 32.Be4 Rg2+ 33.Kxe3
Rfxe5 34.Kf2 Rg4 35.Ra3 Kb8 36.Ra6
Rh3+ 40.Kd2 Rh2+ 41.Kc3 Rxe4
42.dxe4 g4 43.Kd3 Rf2 44.Ke3 Rf1
45.Ke2 Rf4 46.Ra3 Rxe4+ 47.Kd3
Re1 48.Ne2 Kb7 49.Kd2 Ra1 50.Nc1
Rb1 51.Rg3 Rb2+ 52.Kc3 Rf2
53.Rxg4 a5 54.a4 Rf1 55.Nd3 Ra1
56.Rf4 Ra3+ 57.Kd4 Rxa4 58.Rxf7+
Kc8 59.Nf4 b5 60.Nxe6 Rxc4+
61.Kd5 a4 62.Ra7 Rcl 63.Nd4
1-0

A brilliantly played attack, with both white rooks hanging.
1.c4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 Bf5 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nh4
21.Nxf7!! Kxf7 22.cxd5 Bxd5 23.Rxd5!
exd5 24.Qxd5+ Kf8 25.Nd4 Nf4
26.Qf3 Kg8 27.Qxf4 Qb7 28.Nf5 b5
1-0
When one thinks of chess engines, their importance on the opening phase is front and center, but that is not the only part of the game on which they have had an impact. One need only think of tablebases and how endgames with positions of seven or fewer pieces and pawns are now analyzed perfectly.

What many chess players may not realize is that engines’ contributions to the development of chess is not confined to the opening and ending as Re-Engineering the Chess Classics so clearly demonstrates. Authors Mathew Sadler and Steve Giddins re-examine 35 classic games (some better known than others including game three of the Fischer-Taimanov Candidates match) putting them under the microscope with powerful engines.

Of course, everyone can do this themselves, but interpreting the information is not a simple task. It helps to have a world class player (Sadler) who is well-acquainted with working with silicon oracles and a first-rate instructional writer (Giddins). The result is an interesting book that emphasizes throughout what practical lessons can be learned from the machines. This comes home in the author’s postscript where they summarize their findings. Among the lessons learned are the following pieces of wisdom:

1. Avoid passive pieces!
2. Grab Space!
3. Use your rook’s pawns.
4. Small advantages don’t always win!
5. Use the whole board!
6. Be an absolute tactical genius, who never misses anything!
Engineering the Chess Classics is a fascinating book that deserves a wide audience. Players rated 1800 on up will find it worthwhile reading.

The list of books that can be recommended to all chess players from beginners to grandmasters is short. The Essential Sosonko, an omnibus of the writings of Genna Sosonko, is one such work. This massive (839 pages!) and beautiful hardback feature insights on such giants as world champions Max Euwe, Mikhail Botvinnik, Vassily Smyslov, Mikhail Tal, Boris Spassky, and Garry Kasparov.

Sosonko’s specialty is recreating for the reader what life was like for top level players during the years of the Soviet Union. This is particularly true for the 1950s to the 1980s when this country dominated the chess world as no nation has before or since.

This collection features a number of articles that first appeared in New in Chess Magazine, the Dutch language magazine Matten, and various other publications.

Anyone with an interest in chess history will enjoy this book which would make the perfect birthday or holiday gift.

Boris Spassky is one of the few world champions of the 20th Century not to write a book of their best games so Spassky’s Best Games by Alexey Bezgodov and Dmitry Oleinkov (with several annotations by Dmitry Kryakin) helps fill a gap in the chess literature.

Part biography (based in part on the authors conversations with Spassky) and part game collection, it covers the career of a player who is best remembered for losing a world championship match to Bobby Fischer, but who between 1964 and 1968 won six Candidates matches, tied for first in an Interzonal, and won the Second Piatigorsky Cup.

Spassky’s Best Games is currently the best combination biography/games collections on this giant of chess history.

Continuing with World Champions, New in Chess has also published Max Euwe’s Best Games, Jan Timman’s tribute to his great predecessor. Odds are likely that if a vote were held today to determine who was the weakest World Champion of the 20th Century, it would be Euwe. He might also be the winner for best FIDE President.

The logic follows that while Euwe was well-respected by his peers, he would not have beaten Alekhine in their first World Championship match if the latter was sober. Top players do not share this view. Timman believes that Euwe was a worthy World Champion and in that opinion, he is joined by Smyslov and Kasparov. The latter notes paradoxically that although Euwe was always an amateur, he was in fact one of the first professional players. This is a testament to Euwe’s organizational skills and ability to balance his time well. He was a very busy man.

Euwe wrote a book of his best games that was translated into English, but it ends in 1937. Timman’s efforts, motivated partly by a desire to honor the man who put Dutch chess on the map and also by a curiosity to discover just how strong his predecessor was, is most welcome.

One of the many things I learned while reading this book is that Geza Maroczy, temporarily exiled from his homeland, was the 18-year-old Euwe’s teacher just after World War I. The Hungarian was truly a trainer of champions as just a few years later he coached Vera Menchik at a key stage in her development.
Timman has analyzed 80 of Euwe's best games in depth, with a mixture of prose commentary and analysis as needed. This book, like all Timman has written, is a pleasure to read and deserves a warm welcome.

The ability to play endgames requires two key qualities. First and foremost is a mastery of theoretical endgames characterized by positions with few pawns and pieces on the board. Second is the skill to play non-theoretical endings well. The former can be learned from the many excellent endgame handbooks currently available (Dvoretsky, de la Villa, etc.). The latter, which could be described as practical endgames, require keeping a knowledge of theoretical endgames in one's back pocket while playing positions with more pawns and pieces on the board, using general endgame skills to guide oneself.

There is no more skilled player in these types of endgames than Magnus Carlsen, who has possibly passed Anatoly Karpov as the greatest ever in this area. The man best in a position to judge is the noted author and trainer Tibor Karolyi who has written entire books devoted to these players' skill in the endgame. The one on Carlsen was confined to the years 1999-2017 and now the Hungarian international master is back with a companion volume dedicated to the years 2018-2022 and is titled Endgame Virtuoso Magnus Carlsen.

104 of Carlsen's games from the past few years are put under the microscope and they feature all types of endgames. His ability to win games from dead equal positions is nothing short of miraculous and there is no question that studying how he does this will pay big dividends. Highly recommended.

Viktor Moskalenko has a justly deserved reputation as an enthusiastic and inspirational writer and his latest effort, a new edition of The Perfect Pirc-Modern, is written along these lines. About the third of the book is devoted to the Austrian Attack (1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 and now both 5...c5 and 5...0-0) with the remainder devoted to various White setups including 3.Bd3 and 3.Nd2. There is a small amount of coverage of the Modern (1.e4 g6).

Typically, Moskalenko devotes himself to one or two lines against each White try. Against the Classical he offers both a well-known line (1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Be2 0-0 6.0-0 Bg4) and something a little less common (6...Nc6 7.d5 Nb8 and 7...Ne5 plus 6...c5 – the latter from White's point of view). All told, Moskalenko uses 42 well-annotated model games to make his case that the Pirc is very much alive and well.

Last but certainly not least is The Open Sicilian by Ivan Saric, the Croatian top 100 player (rated over 2700 a few years ago). In advocating for meeting the Sicilian with 3.d4 (in almost all cases) he follows a well-trodden path walked before by Negi, Shaw, de la Villa, Illingworth, and others. Saric's task is more difficult as he comes last, and the past few years have seen theory develop exponentially. Can he do so in a single volume work that is only a little over 400 pages? And can he do so in a way that will not include having to update large sections in the next year?

The answers are yes and maybe. Saric, who did a Chessable course upon which this beautiful hardback book is based, has selected a repertoire that is sound and packs a punch.

Najdorf (6.f3)

Dragon (9.0-0-0)

Classical (6.Bg5)
Kan (5.Bd3)

Sveshnikov (7.Nd5)

Taimano (5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 a6 7.a3)

Accelerated Dragon (5.c4)

Four Knights (6.Nxc6)


6.Nxc6 doesn’t have that problem, but after 6...bxc6 7.e5 Nd5 8.Ne4 we have reached a position that is popular and in which the theory is developing quickly.


20...Qf5 (Saric gives 20..Qc2+ 21.Kg1).

The Croatian grandmaster’s assessment of the position holds true after both moves: “White has a bishop for four pawns, but the pawns are vulnerable, especially the d7 pawn that holds Black’s position together. If White manages to capture on d7, he will have excellent winning chances.”

Those who want to meet the Sicilian with 3.d4 will find this book most helpful in developing a repertoire.
In Memoriam: Jeremy Silman (1954-2023)

Sometime way back in 1974, I took a walk across the Golden Gate Park Panhandle in San Francisco’s Haight-Ashbury District to study chess with Jeremy Silman, a friend and chess master.

Along with my brother Jay, I had been playing for a couple of years and was totally chess-mad. Every weekday we were down at Mechanics’ Institute from morning to night, and on the weekends we were playing in tournaments. I had a school friend or two, but most of my friends were chess players. My brother and I had come on strong into the chess world – young, brash, and full of ourselves, we were nevertheless welcomed whole-heartedly by the chess community.

Jeremy Silman had become a family friend. I don’t recall when we first met, but I have a photograph of him at my 14th birthday party, so I met him sometime in my 13th year, and Jeremy would have been 19 or 20.

I had started playing in 1972 and had reached Expert level in 1974, but my progress had stalled. I felt my destiny was to be a Chess Master, and perhaps taking up Silman’s offer to study at his house would lead to the breakthrough I so desperately wanted. I could never have guessed, on entering his flat on Fell Street, just what a turning point this would end up being for me.

I was ushered into a large room, lit only by candles, with incense perfuming the air. There was not a stick of furniture in the room, only a rug centered on the floor, and centered on that rug: a wooden chess board, a wooden chess set, and a great pile of chess books.

I felt awed, as though I had come to a Holy place, a place where chess was worshiped – a hidden Sanctuary of Chess, where I was the Novice, and Silman the Master.

Then he put The Tubes on the record player.

While “White Punks on Dope” blasted out of the speakers, Jeremy offered me tea. I don’t recall him ever drinking coffee, certainly not alcohol. In fact, despite wild tales of excess from those that knew him – and from Jeremy himself! – I found him, remarkably, to be the most abstemious of my friends.

And although I can’t remember what kind of chess we studied that afternoon, that’s really beside the point. I can only remember my feelings at the time: this was the kind of life I wanted to lead, a life devoted to doing what I loved, whatever it might be.

We remained good friends, and through the years I stayed in touch with Jeremy, and followed his life: success as a player, author and teacher, and as a happily married man. As I write these words in memory of Jeremy, who passed away September 21, this wonderful remembrance of the legendary Steve Brandwein, penned by Jeremy, sprang immediately and inevitably to mind.

What a writer! What a chess player! What an amazing friend and inspiration!

– Paul Whitehead
Tactics ala Silman

From Jeremy’s games. Find the winning move.
Solutions below.

1. Black to move.

2. White to move.

3. Black to move.

4. White to move.
5. White to move.

6. White to move.

7. White to move.

8. White to move.
Outdoor Chess Returns to San Francisco!

Mechanics’ Institute is partnering with Downtown San Francisco Partnership to bring chess activation to Mechanics’ Monument Plaza, located on Market Street between Bush and Front. We are thrilled to provide public chess engagement on Thursdays between 12:00-1:00 pm, where everyone is welcome to join a game on the giant chess set and pick up a casual over-the-board game with a friend or coworker (or meet someone new!). You can also try to solve the deceptively difficult weekly puzzle alongside city ambassadors Jerrold and Zuriel, newly minted puzzle enthusiasts.

We want to extend our thanks to Robbie Silver, Executive Director, and Claude Imbault, Deputy Director, of Downtown SF Partnership for collaborating with Mechanics’ Institute to bring chess to all. Downtown SF Partnership is a nonprofit community benefit district working to enhance the downtown core through public/private partnerships, placemaking, activating the public realm, clean and safe operations, marketing support, and more.

Join Mechanics' Institute at Mechanics' Plaza on Thursdays from 12:00-1:00 pm for chess ~ we'll see you there!

Here is the write-up in the San Francisco Chronicle.
Richard Hack

Tales from the Chess Café

“Every higher expression of harmony produces a profound aesthetic impression. It arouses enthusiasm and generates ideas of the beautiful.”

—Peter Romanovsky, Soviet Middlegame Technique, Chapter 11, “The Aesthetics of Combination: General Concepts.” From Quality Chess, 2013, a combination of two 20th-century books, one on middlegame planning and the other on combinations.

Chess! The open mystery of the 64 squares and 32 pieces.... Chop, chop, and counting! The recap of events in both sections of the World Junior Championships in Mexico City included a line about how a little mistake can keep a competitor off the list of prizewinners.

At the Café everything is self-serve.

“Not so much a masterpiece as the last game,” said Merlin when his game came up 2nd in line on screen share on September 18. He is humble and quietly assertive, graced with a sense of humor and a willingness to comment. He often brings in online games of his that elicit interest. One inspired comment, “Now Merlin is merciless!” We also watched a game or two by Arnold Denker. Sophia: “In our chess class, draw is a 4-letter word.” A draw by Peter Biyiasis as White, locking up the queenside. Paul: “Putting all his eggs in one basket on the kingside. Mike: “White normally wouldn’t do that [move a pawn to a5 interlocking two chains of 3 pawns each] unless both his rooks were already on the kingside.”

It was mentioned that Hans Niemann won a settlement and dismissed his lawsuit. He’s giving away some for scholarships. Charles: “Did they pay money?” Sophia: “I’m pretty sure they did. Exposing a minor’s record. Why do they keep doing this to junior players? They should be off a platform for a while [if they commit such an offense], maybe 6 months.” Hans eliminated Kramnik this morning. “He also played over 100 people, kids and everyone, on Saturday in the park.” “Kramnik himself was accused of cheating.” “Piers Morgan was very rude to Hans. It was terrible. Kudos to Hans for putting up with it.” “I hear they pay guests to go on that show.”

Ruth Haring put a lot of good people in the women’s section of USCF. “Chess is becoming decentralized. Moving into bars and other clubs.” “It was getting too commercialized. We need more than just an elite club. Recently we had the under-2800 world championship match.”

For commercialization, check out this overdone promo copy: The format “promises heart-stopping drama,” and “The Armageddon Championship Series Grand Finale boasts an unprecedented prize fund that underscores the significance of this chess event, with remarkable rewards for participants.... An electrifying experience is guaranteed for viewers of the Grand Finale, complete with thrilling battles between women and men, and an array of captivating features. These include real-time tracking of players’ heart rates and expended calories, alongside lightning-fast moves and cutting-edge analysis.”

https://en.chessbase.com/post/armageddon-grand-final

On September 25, Paul advised a player whose game we looked at: “It’s e4-d4 versus a6-b5. Just play normally, don’t try to destroy them. One little piece at a time. Don’t try to grab too much, just keep your lead in development.”
Later: “Why does 3. Nd2 have Tarrasch’s name on it?” “Maybe because he played a lot against the IQP, which may appear here.” “In the Tarrasch Defense to the Queen’s Gambit, Smyslov’s or Flohr’s games are good for the White side of IQP’s, Kasparov’s games for the Black side.”

“It’s always a struggle between the static features like the IQP and the dynamic ones. Bronstein called them hedgehogs and foxes.” Trish mentioned that he probably got that from Isaiah Berlin’s little book The Hedgehog and the Fox (1953). I looked it up and found explanations like these: “The fox knows many things, but the hedgehog knows one big thing.’ This ancient Greek aphorism, preserved in a fragment from the poet Archilochus, describes the central thesis of Isaiah Berlin’s masterly essay on Leo Tolstoy and the philosophy of history, the subject of the epilogue to War and Peace.” From a posting about the book on Amazon. I never learned Greek, but for our Latin scholars, another search adds, “In the Adagia of Erasmus from 1500, the expression is recorded as Multa novit vulpes, verum echinus unum magnum.” Here’s one more: “What is the Hedgehog Concept? This concept is a business strategy framework developed by Jim Collins, the author of the book Good to Great. It is based on pursuing your passion, focusing on your core strengths, and creating something unique.”

There was discussion of the hedgehog motif in the Semi-Tarrasch and the Gruenfeld Reversed. We saw a game Keene-Miles, which Keene won with a great attack during the time he became Britain’s strongest GM. Later Miles assumed that role. We looked at the structure Nc6-Nf6-Be7 with pawns at d5 and c5 for Black, and Nc3-Nf3-g3-Bg2 and pawn at b3, which defends c4 well. “Kasparov had a lot of such games with Karpov.”

When Paul mentioned that Mike was playing Frederic Dutter (“Dooter”) the following day in the TNM, we heard that when he was rated 2100, Dutter played a Fischer-Sozin against Walter Browne’s Sicilian and got ahead of Browne early and maintained the edge, resulting in a draw. Paul mentioned that Dutter is the subject of a documentary on YouTube, when he was living in Petaluma, an expert trying to become a master.

Fritz and the Comeback — A film by Gabriel G. Adams. There is a full 20-minute production on Vimeo and a trailer lasting 1:32 on YouTube, from which Frederic states, “It’s really my only motivation.” Another voice: “Definitely. Chess is your medium.” “When I get at a chess board, I’m in a different world,” he says in a speculative tone; “and I feel at home. I’m not bragging, there’s no ego here. When I get at a chess board, I feel my soul’s there…. The most important thing about chess is loving — loving to play the art…. Chess is theory, not fantasy.” He says he wants to win one more tournament.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XCkiWjJrD2Q

IM Jeremy Silman, a leading writer, player, and teacher recently passed on after a long struggle. Paul showed two of his early losses to Silman (Berkeley ’76 and Sunnyvale ’77). He was a 16-year-old master, and Silman, 22, was one of his mentors. “In those days when I had to play a positional game, I tended to fall apart.” Mike: “Modern theory can move a piece twice in the opening, which is hard to adapt to when you were raised on the idea of economy in development.” Silman was very active here in the ’70s before moving to L.A. “No reason to play 22…f5. I still have my house to take care of here. White is basically up a worthless pawn…. 37…Bxc4 is a bad move which leaves all my pawns weak.” In their second game, 34…Kf8!! was singled out, but 35. Bxc5! won the queen at e4. “Silman had me completely hypnotized that day.”

The busy Elliott arrived at 5:20. Paul asked him about the memorial for Richard Shorman. “It was really good.” One of his most famous students, Vinay Bhat, was there. We heard that Shorman was imbued with knowledge of philosophy, especially Eastern and Indian. To a lot of people he was more of a guru than a chess teacher. He had a great appeal as a person. He liked gambits, and told people
not to rush into trying to be a good player: “Just be a good bad player. People want to be grandmasters, but they have to master the game first.” “He was a little guy with a big camera.”

There is a full long life to read about online. A few lines: “He was known for his tactical and aggressive approach to chess, which he developed and taught to thousands of past and current students. His impact went beyond chess as he also imparted valuable life lessons.... At the age of 15, Richard read his first book on chess and soon started playing at the Oakland YMCA Chess Club, run by George Koltanowski.... He co-instigated the renowned Cherryland Café from 1962 to 1977, where Harold James provided a place and Richard provided the chess and his trademark dry wit.” In the Army, he learned Russian at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey. Later he helped Koltanowski with his daily column in the Chronicle, which was syndicated for half a century. A player rated in the 1600s and 1700s, he made a lasting mark in chess and with people.

legacy.com/us/obituaries/legacyremembers/richard-shorman-obituary?id=52963599

On October 2, Paul told us he went up to Bernal Chess on Saturday, September 30. Juliana, who helped start the group and maintains the website, mentioned their chess lectures at the Bernal Heights branch library on 4th Fridays: “These are getting really good.”

Alexey said she was coming to Oakland on Thursday and would be going to the Berkeley Chess School, which of course has regular Friday night tournaments and others. People are also developing a U.S. Senior Women's Championship, which will run parallel to the U.S. Senior Championship. The new event, perhaps a trial run, is set for November 3-5.

Ray Freeman often brings tough puzzles to the Café and appeared today in a 2023 set-to versus Checkov. “This looks like a 10-minute game to me.” “I think he was desperate because he saw the move I missed, Qe6.” Ray eventually had a Q and 2 R's vs. Q and B, but a three-fold repetition of moves drew for Black: “It was fun.”

We saw the 4th-round Fall TNM game Walder-Dutter that had been announced the previous week. Instead of 11. f4, Mike moved Nf3. At move 27, he says, he should have played f5 instead of Bd5. He was winning, but blundered and got a draw after 47 moves. Paul: “What's the moral of this game?” Mike: “When you see a good move, stop—there may be a better one. I missed his saving move, 33... Rd1.”

We had another excellent puzzle from Gadir Guseinov, and another from Giri that was posted on Twitter. Paul figured out the 4-move mating combination that solved one of them.

Quinn Ni, a regular who has been traveling the world, told us she has an audition coming up soon at the Santa Monica Playhouse.

Sophia did not attend this week, but we wished her Happy Birthday!!

Another point made in the Romanovsky book cited at the top: that the motifs and themes of combinations are often a subject of theory and investigation. But theory is unable to say much “on the subject of ideas. If some ideas have been able to be generalized and in some way classified, thousands of them still remain outside the orbit of theory, for ideas are rarely found to be repeatable.”

Editor's note: The Chess Cafe meets online via Zoom.
You can join the conversation by registering here.
A New Puzzle in the Library

Every week or so Mechanics' Institute's Head of Technical Services, Steven Dunlap, puts up a chess puzzle in the library for our members to solve.

Grandmaster Jesus de la Via describes the knight as “slow but dangerous.” In positions like this players can find themselves bogged down trying to figure out how to mate with their rooks. From Back to Basics (2008), by Branislav Francuski.
Solution: 1.Nf5 mate.

Seeking Scholastic Chess Coaches

Are you interested in joining the team at Mechanics’ Institute? The Institute is currently seeking Scholastic Chess Instructors for the upcoming school year. Qualified candidates should have a foundational knowledge of chess and should be familiar with or willing to learn chess instructional techniques. Candidates should also have a basic foundation in classroom management and conflict resolution strategies, particularly working with children. This is an in-person position and candidates must be able to commute to schools in San Francisco. If you’re interested follow the link below or reach out to our Chess Program Manager, Alex Robins, at arobins@milibrary.org.

Employment Opportunities | Mechanics’ Institute (milibrary.org)
Tony’s Teasers

White mates in 2 moves.

2. S. Loyd, 1859.
White mates in 3 moves.
Tournaments, Classes, and Events

Mechanics’ Institute offers a wide range of chess tournaments, classes, and special events. Our offerings include a monthly Chess Social, free classes for women and Mechanics’ Institute members, an online Chess Café, chess camps for adults and children, and much more.

You can find a list of ongoing and upcoming tournaments here.

Offerings for adults and advanced players can be found here.
Information about scholastic events, camps, and programming can be found [here](https://example.com).

Play chess in the oldest club in the United States!
### Register for all tournaments at milibrary.org/chess

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tournament</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Rounds</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday Night Rapid</strong></td>
<td>Thursday, October 5</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>4 Rounds l G/15+2</td>
<td></td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Non-Members $40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Chess Day!</strong></td>
<td>Saturday, October 14</td>
<td></td>
<td>Scholastic Swiss,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Womens’/Girl’s/Gender</td>
<td></td>
<td>Member discounts for all events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Expansive Individual’s</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tournament, Blitz, Quads</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>21st St. Amant Memorial</strong></td>
<td>Saturday, October 21</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>4 Rounds l G40;d5</td>
<td></td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Non-Members $50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fast Fall Blitz</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday, October 24</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>5 Double-Rounds l G/3+2</td>
<td></td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Non-Members $40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Full Day Quads</strong></td>
<td>Saturday, October 28</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>3 Rounds l G/60+5</td>
<td></td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Non-Members $45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
November & December Chess Tournaments

Register for all tournaments at milibrary.org/chess

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tournament</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Rounds</th>
<th>Time Control</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Non-Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd Irving Chernev Memorial</td>
<td>November 4</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>G/40+d5</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Tuesday Night Marathon</td>
<td>November 7-19</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>G/120+d5</td>
<td>$65</td>
<td>$95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Scholastic Swiss</td>
<td>November 11</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>G/30+d5</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Quads</td>
<td>November 11</td>
<td>3 pm</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>G/30+d5</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd Guthrie McClain Memorial</td>
<td>December 2</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>G/40+d5</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Scholastic Swiss</td>
<td>December 9</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>G/30+d5</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Quads</td>
<td>December 9</td>
<td>3 pm</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>G/30+d5</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Donaldson (FIDE-Rated)</td>
<td>December 16-17</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>G/90+30</td>
<td>$65</td>
<td>$95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

57 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94104 | chessroom@milibrary.org | 415.393.0110
Free Women's Online Chess Class
by FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams

Coached by FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams, this class is for women and girls looking to develop their chess skills with a community of women. Knowledge of piece movements and mates is expected, but not required. Registration is needed so we may send the links for players to join.

Questions?
chessroom@milibrary.org / (415) 393-0110

Every Sunday on Zoom from 10 am to 12 pm
Register at milibrary.org/chess
Endgame Lab
with
FM Paul Whitehead

November 2 -
December 14, 2023
6 Classes

Thursdays in the
Chess Room Annex
4th Floor
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Register here:
milibrary.org/chess

In this six week course, FM Paul Whitehead will lead a discussion covering basic and intermediate endings, including reviewing the participant’s knowledge of basic checkmates, principals and terminology – opposition, centralization, zugzwang. We will discuss and review the theory and practice of king and pawn endings, rook endings, minor piece endings, queen endings, and various material imbalances.

chessroom@milibrary.org

(415) 393-0110 | 57 Post Street, San Francisco CA 94104
Solutions

Tony's Teasers:

1. **L Jokisch**, 1909. 1.d3! Threatens 2.dxe4#. 1...Nxg5 (1...cxd3 2.Qb3#. 1...exd3 2.Qh1#. 1...c5 2.Qb7#. 1...f5 2.exf6#.) 2.Nc7#.

2. **S. Loyd**, 1859. 1.Kc2! Kxb4+ (1...Rd5 2.Nb2+ Kd4 - or 2...Kb5 3.Qb8# - 3.Qf4#) 2...Kc3! (If 2...Kxa5 or 2...Ka3 then 3.Qxc5#.) 3.Qf4#.

---

Tactics ala Silman:


2. Silman - Johnsen, London 1978. 1.e6! is crushing. 1...fxe6 2.Qd4+ (2.fx e6 is also good) 2...e5 3.Nxe5 1-0.


5. Silman - Bonin, New York 1987. 1.h4+! Kxh4 (1...Kg6 2.Qg8+) 2.Qd8+ 1-0.

6. Silman - Lakdawala, 1989. 1.Rh6+! 1-0. 1...Nhx6 2.Qg7#. Or 1...Kg5 2.Qxf7.

7. Silman - Petranovich, Santa Monica 1989. 1.Rg5 1-0.

8. Silman - MacFarland, Reno 1991. 1.Bf6!! 1-0. Mate is forced: 1...gx f6 (1...Rg8 also loses in spectacular fashion: 2.Qxg7+!! Rgx7 3.Rd8+ Rxd8 4.Rxg7#) 2.exf6 Rg8 3.Rd8! (Threatens 4.Qg7#) 3...Rxd8 4.Rxd8 Rxd8 5.Qg7#.

---

Contact Us

The Mechanics’ Institute Chess Club is on the 4th floor at 57 Post Street, San Francisco, CA. Our phone number is (415) 393-0110.

We welcome any feedback, articles, or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today at chessroom@milibrary.org

With more than 3,000 books and periodicals, Mechanics’ Institute boasts one of the largest chess book collections in the U.S.
You can now access our newsletter directly from the chess home page!
https://www.milibrary.org/chess
Join the Chess Room for Chess Socials!
Free and encouraged for MI Members

5-6pm
First Fridays of the month:

November 3
December 1

Unwind from the week with fellow chess players. We’ll have rousing game replays on the big screen, snacks, and lively conversation. Wine available for purchase in the Meeting Room provided before the CinemaLit program. Stick around for CinemaLit at 6pm!

Questions?
Contact chessroom@milibrary.org